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RECENT ORNITHOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENTS IN
SOUTHEASTERN MICHIGAN.

BY B. H. SWALES AND P. A. TAVERNER.

NATURE means change. Nature plus man means transformation. The time is passing, and with it many of our once common species are traveling to extinction. The records of the past are fragmentary and misty and, in the light of present day conditions, the accounts of old authors are often almost past belief. Of the great flocks of water birds that once visited our waters, but an infinitesimal fraction remain and, in many specific cases, none at all. Just what the conditions were, in the old days, it is hard to tell. Game was too common, then, to be mentioned specifically; and now we can but surmise at what the great migrant hordes were composed of. Even at a later date ornithological knowledge of the rarer forms was too rare and incomplete to form the basis of modern scientific conclusion. What has been change and what misreport is but too often the problem of our list makers. The changes have been gradual and are still going on, but too often we have only awakened to the fact of the growing rarity of a species when it has utterly vanished from our horizon. Through it all, various observers have come, noted and gone; and their records have been copied and recopied and present conceptions of avifaunal conditions, in many cases, are but composite pictures of various past stages and the present. The limited opportunities most of the older observers enjoyed for the definitions of the obscurer forms, their more or less indefinite data and the loss of their specimens, also throws a veil of doubt over their records that there is now no way of piercing.

The past has gone and left but scanty record behind. Whether the present does likewise, rests with us of the present. That the next generation may not say of this as we say of the past, it seems most necessary, as various points turn up, that they should be put in an enduring form, as well for the correction of current misconception, as for a legacy to the future. To this end, the following notes have been sifted from our note books, as showing the salient

features of the past few years' work in this vicinity. Some are but formal records of occurrences, others scraps of life history or other bits that seem of more or less interest. In all cases we have given the local conditions as we have found them, taking nothing for granted that could be verified, and locating, definitely, the specimens in as many cases as possible. Eyesight records have been used but sparingly, but wherever no other are available we have attempted to give the conditions under which the identifications were made that the reader may use his own judgment as to the conclusions. It may be observed that in some cases we are at variance with lists of adjoining localities, and the reports of other observers. This cannot be helped. Our experience has been as follows and, as we have taken the utmost care in identifications, variation must be attributed to differences of locality or other reasons that suggest themselves.

The delta of the St. Clair River, known as the St. Clair Flats, has long been looked upon as that paradise of water birds where all species breed and some birds have been reported from there apparently on the principle that if not there they should be. Some of these records have been copied extensively and we have taken this opportunity to correct some of the most flagrant of them.

Larus delawarensis. RING-BILLED GULL.—There has been some doubt expressed as to the occurrence of this bird at the western end of Lake Erie (see Jones's 'Birds of Ohio,' p. 29). We have always been confident of its occurrence here and have recorded it many times in our notes. On coming to look it up, however, we were surprised to find an entire lack of actual specimens and that all our identifications had been eyesight ones. We have therefore, this fall, paid special attention to this species, with the following results: About October 15 Mr. Campion had a pair of wings that we identified as from a bird of this species taken on the river. November 1, while crossing the river, Mr. Taverner watched a small gull sailing in circles with a Herring Gull. Though it was never close enough for the characteristic ring on the bill to be distinguished, every chance was given to compare the two birds in point of size, as they crossed and recrossed each other's courses many times and often in close proximity to each other. November 12, Mr. Campion received a juvenile bird from Pine Lake, Oak-

land Co., the second county back from the river, and we examined it in his shop. On the 15th, Mr. Swales observed another on the river under similar circumstances to those above described, and about the same time Mr. Eppinger mounted another local specimen. Mr. Campion has an adult mounted bird in his window, taken several years ago, and informs us that he receives several every year from the local shooters. We regard these records as amply substantiating our claim that this species is a regular migrant on the Detroit River. It occasionally remains during mild winters.

Gelochelidon nilotica. GULL-BILLED TERN.—Reported from the Flats, but the observer now repudiates the record, and as there is no other substantiating data, it will have to be thrown out.

Sterna caspia. CASPIAN TERN.—We have no absolute data for this bird on the Detroit River, though Mr. Campion states that about October, 1901, he saw two flying up the river just out of gun range, and Mr. Fleming informs us that Mr. Maughn of Toronto has had three from the Ste. Anne's Gun Club, on the Canadian side of the Flats. At Point Pelee, at the west end of Lake Erie, in company with Mr. W. E. Saunders, May 13, 1905, we saw several beating up and down the shores with Common Terns under much the same circumstances as described under the head of Ring-billed Gull; their superior size but like coloration to their companions, made identification practically certain. On September 8, of the same year Mr. Swales observed two, in nearly the same locality, as they flew by just out of gun range.

Sterna forsteri. FORSTER'S TERN.—We have but one record of this species, a juvenile taken on the lower Detroit River Sept. 10, 1890, by J. C. Wood. This bird was identified by Mr. Robt. Ridgway and is in Mr. Swales's collection.

Sterna antillarum. LEAST TERN.—We have no evidence whatever of the occurrence of this bird in the vicinity. It is interesting to note (Auk, XXIII, pp. 452-453) that all the so-called specimens of this species that Mr. Fleming has examined from the adjoining Province have proved to be immature Black Terns. This confusion may well be the basis of our local records.

Phalacrocorax dilophus. DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT.—During 1906 we have examined three specimens in the local taxidermist's shops. One, taken in April, has the breast nearly white

flecked with black, and is the second local spring record for the species. The two others were sent in from the St. Clair Flats October 1 and November 25. This seems to be about the usual number taken each year on the river and the vicinity.

Anas obscura rubripes. RED-LEGGED BLACK DUCK.—The search for this subspecies, this fall, has brought to light several that we are confident belong to the variety. The Black Duck nests regularly at the Flats and all the early fall birds belong to this breeding form. The variants do not come until November. We have unfortunately so far been unable to secure specimens for expert advice. We examined one in Campion's shop, taken December 11, that is undoubtedly a hybrid (*A. boschas* + *obscura*). This has a few slight tendencies towards the Mallard in general shape, and the coloration of the tertials. Over the eye there is a perceptible shade of green, otherwise we should call it a well marked Red-leg. It was taken in company with a typical Mallard-Black hybrid, showing about equal traces of both parents. We should judge that the before mentioned bird has about the appearance that would be exhibited by a cross between an ordinary hybrid and a Black Duck and would be well represented by the formula (*obscura* + *boscha*) + *obscura*. Both these were taken on the lower Detroit River.

Chaulelasmus streperus. GADWALL.—The Gadwall is a decidedly rare duck in this vicinity. Todd, in his 'Birds of Erie and Presque Isle,' lists it as the "rarest duck on Lake Erie." In a MS. list of birds in the Museum of the University of Michigan, date unknown, a specimen is listed with the following data: "State Survey, Southeastern Mich.—Dr. A. Sager." The bird itself has been lost and further information on it is unobtainable. Mr. Fleming informs us that Mr. John Maughn, of Toronto, has had several pass through his hands from the Ste. Anne's Gun Club, St. Clair Flats, Ont. During the past fall of 1906 we have examined three females in Campion's shop; one was taken October 26, Lower Detroit River, and the other two, November 15, Monroe Marshes, Monroe Co. One of the latter is in Taverner's collection, No. 777.

Spatula clypeata. SHOVELLER.—We have been able to find but one specimen of this species in a number of years. On October

26, 1906, a female was taken on the lower part of the river and sent to Mr. Campion to mount, in whose shop we examined it. Even twenty years ago this was considered a rare bird on the St. Clair Flats, one of the most famous ducking grounds in the country.

Aythya vallisneria. CANVAS-BACK.—We are informed by an inhabitant of Hickory Island that a small flock of Canvas-backs remained all last winter (1905-06) on the open waters of Lake Erie just off the mouth of the Detroit River.

Aythya collaris. RING-NECKED DUCK.—Though once regarded as a common duck, the Ring-neck is far from being such at present writing. Despite of keeping a close eye upon the contents of the taxidermy establishments of the city, questioning the shooters and examining their game bags at every opportunity, we have found but one local specimen, April 10, 1905, from the Flats. On November 15, 1906, we received a male from Point Pelee, Ont., which is in Mr. Taverner's collection.

Oidemia deglandi. WHITE-WINGED SCOTER.—Records of this scoter are rare enough to make it desirable to mention a male taken at Fox Island, Lower Detroit River, Nov. 22, 1906, by Mr. Atkinson. This is in Mr. Taverner's collection. This species is known among the shooters by the name of "Squaw Duck."

Chen hyperborea. LESSER SNOW GOOSE.—Since recording our opinion of this species in southeastern Michigan (Auk, XXII, pp. 219, 220), Mr. Taverner has examined several old specimens in the University of Michigan Museum that are ascribed to this section and has found that they all belong to this form. We can get no evidence that any other form has ever been taken.

Olor columbianus. WHISTLING SWAN.—It is interesting to note that, during the winter of 1905-06, a small flock of swans wintered near the western end of Lake Erie. We were so informed by a resident of Hickory Island who stated that they were very wary and noisy and kept well out in the middle of the lake. As will be remembered, the winter was very open and mild, and there was little or no ice until February. It is much to be desired that all local swans be critically examined, as there still seems to be some hope that the Trumpeter yet occurs rarely on our waters.

Ardea cærulea. LITTLE BLUE HERON.—September 22, 1906, in Leamington, Ont., we examined a mounted bird in the collection

of Mr. John Conover of that city. It was taken in September, 1904, near the base of Point Pelee by Mr. Dan Goyeau. Mr. Conover had all his things packed ready for moving to another city and the specimen was not situated so that a critical examination could be made. It was, as far as we could see, pure white, without plumes or markings of any kind. We based our identification on the color of the legs which were painted yellow. Whether this was their original color, or the taxidermist's idea of the "eternal fitness of things" there is no means of knowing. We, however, assume the former, and in that belief, place the specimen under this heading with a question mark.

Nycticorax nycticorax nævius. BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT HERON. — Though said to be a common bird on the St. Clair Flats by Langille (1883), it is now but rarely seen in this section. We have a few straggling records for the species at various points from the Flats to the Lower Detroit River, so it evidently occurs as a straggling wanderer once in a while.

Steganopus tricolor. WILSON'S PHALAROPE. — Records of this species are very rare. In addition to Taverner's record (Auk, XXIII, p. 335) and that of J. C. Wood (*ibid.*, p. 334) referring to the same place, and likely to the same individual, Mr. Campion informs us that he mounted a high-plumaged female, taken on the Flats in May, 1906, by Mr. Clarence Conely of Detroit, in whose possession it now is. It is interesting to observe that after all these years of non-observation of this species, two should have been taken at nearly the same time and within twenty miles of each other. There is a possibility, of course, that this last one is one of the same individuals recorded by Mr. Wood, as the locality where it was taken is directly on what would appear to be the natural channel of its migration route to the north.

Actodromas fuscicollis. WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER. — Mr. Wood's statement in 'The Auk' (XXIII, pp. 458, 459) that this species is common in eastern Michigan we received with a good deal of surprise. The above record and that of Mr. Taverner's (*ibid.*, p. 335) are the first that we have been able to find for this section. Mr. Swales has known Mr. Wood for a great many years intimately — in fact up to the spring of 1904 they were constant field companions, but in none of their ornithological talks

did Mr. Wood ever mention having seen this species even when the subject of conversation turned on the results of these same Port Austin trips. It is certain that none of these birds were taken, or if taken they were not preserved. We believe that Mr. Wood's identifications of the White-rumped Sandpiper on the Lake Huron shore are purely retrospective and that an entirely misleading conception has been given of the status of this species in the State.

Charadrius dominicus. GOLDEN PLOVER.—The standing of this species in our local list is far from satisfactory. It seems to be generally regarded as a more or less common migrant, but specimens to support the claim are not forthcoming. We have found but one bona fide specimen for the Detroit River,—N. A. Wood, Oct. 12, 1895, Gibraltar, Mich. Others have upon examination proved to be Black-bellied Plovers (*Squatarola squatarola*). We have found the latter common during the falls of 1905 and 1906 at Point Pelee and have met with but one each year of the Golden. The experience of W. E. Saunders in southern Ontario has been about parallel with ours in regard to the relative abundance of the two species, and Mr. Fleming (Auk, XXIII, p. 451) gives information pointing to the conclusion that the Golden Plover is an erratic visitor to our shores, while the Black-belly is a regular and common local migrant. It seems that most, if not all, the Lake Erie and Ontario records of the Golden Plover are fall ones, yet this is just the season that they should not be found here, according to W. W. Cooke in his 'New Facts About the Migration of Birds,' 1903. The mention of *S. squatarola* in most of our local lists is suspicious in the light of the above. The well known sportsman writer, Ed. Sandys, has an entertaining account (Outing, 1899, p. 183) of the unusual abundance of Golden Plover in the region of the Thames River, on the Canadian side of the Lake St. Clair, during September and October; and again (*ibid.*, 1897, p. 305), he states that on the shores of Lake St. Clair he found them very common October 15, 1896. Immediately on the other side of the lake, we have never been able to get track of the species, either by personal observation or by talks with the shooters.

Arenaria morinella. RUDDY TURNSTONE.—We have seen a case containing two high-plumaged Turnstones that Mr. Campion

tells us he took near the River Rouge. He says there were five in the flock and he got them all. It was in the spring, about 1898. He also reports mounting a Turnstone for the Mr. Conely before mentioned under the head of Phalarope. Mr. Taverner took one at Point Pelee September 15, 1905. This appears to exhaust the records for this section.

Accipiter atricapillus. AMERICAN GOSHAWK.—Prior to 1906 we have but two records for the Goshawk in the neighborhood of Detroit, namely, Wayne Co., Dec. 24, 1898, and Oakland Co., Oct. 30, 1905. This fall, however, we have had a flight worthy of more than passing notice. October 15 we flushed a large *Accipiter* that we were confident was of this species at Point Pelee, Ont., but did not receive confirmatory evidence of the correctness of our identification until October 21, when we received an adult male from the same locality, followed by an adult and a juvenile October 23. On November 8 we received four birds, and November 14 three, all from the Point. The first local specimen was in the taxidermist's hands about October 29, and single birds were received November 10, December 11, 24, 30, and January 18. Several were reported from Pelee December 1 and January 18. Of all these but two were juveniles, one as above mentioned and the first of the local birds. Of the remainder, two of the Pelee and one of the others had a trace of the dark stripings of the immature plumage, and were, we should judge, birds of the second year. From these specimens it was easy to pick out four distinct plumages, which seems to indicate that the species does not attain its full plumage until the third year. The winter of 1896, saw a flight of Goshawks at Toronto when the same conditions as to the scarcity of young birds prevailed (see Auk, XXIV, p. 72), and again this year Mr. Fleming reports another one like it. Strange to relate, however, in the intermediate territory at London, Mr. Saunders has seen no Goshawks at all this fall. Correspondence has shown that the flight has not penetrated into the interior of the State, where the only records that we hear of have been from Midland and Clare Counties, where, however, the species seems to be a more or less common visitor. The flight also seems not to have crossed Lake Erie, as Dr. Lynds Jones spent some time at Cedar Point, directly opposite Point Pelee, on

the Ohio shore during the height of the flight and does not mention them in his report of his trip (Wils. Bull., Dec., 1906).

Nyctea nyctea. SNOWY OWL.—We have also had a flight of Snowy Owls this fall and early winter, that has not been so remarkable for the number of individuals as for the peculiarities of the individuals composing it. Hitherto the general run of Snowy Owls taken here have been of the usual heavily marked form. This fall, however, the males have all been of a remarkable whiteness. The first one of the season was received from Point Pelee, November 1, and must have been taken a few days previous. This is a male and nearly white. What darker markings there are, are very light in color and are sparsely sprinkled over the wings and lower breast. We received another, a female of the usual dark coloration, from the Point November 7. Since then five have been examined in the shops, two coming from Port Huron, both white, and one from Grosse Isle in the lower Detroit River, which is almost immaculate. The other two were females and were dark. All males have been light and all females dark. It seems that this flight must have originated in a different geographical quarter than previous ones. It is known that in the northwestern Provinces of Canada this light bird is the usual form, and it is most likely that these birds came from somewhere in that direction, while our usual visitors originate some distance further east. The occurrence of the dark females indicates nothing to the contrary, as the female of the white male is invariably of the dark type. From what data we can gather it does not seem that this whiteness is the result of full maturity, otherwise it might be inferred that this is an irruption of adults somewhat resembling the flight of Goshawks described above. That there is something more than ordinary in the occurrence of these birds this fall is evident on studying their peculiar distribution over Michigan and Ontario. A map showing the occurrence of the Goshawk this fall would do equally well for the Snowy Owl. White birds have been common at Toronto, as we are informed by Mr. Fleming; none of any kind have been noted at London by Mr. Saunders, and there are no reports from the interior of the State. The only way we can account for this strange state of affairs is that these two species have followed some such route as Taverner mapped out (Bull. Mich.

Ornith. Club, 1905, pp. 3-7). We surmise that they came down from some point to the northwest of us, and at the head of Lake Huron divided into streams, one following the main land around the indentation of Georgian Bay and then overland to Toronto; and the other cutting across the mouth of the bay via the Manitoulin Islands to the Bruce Peninsula, and thence down the shores of Lake Huron to their present recorded distribution.

***Empidonax flaviventris*.** YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHER.—Up to the summer of 1906 we regarded this species as a rare migrant, but August 12, 1906, we secured one and observed several more, and from then on found it one of the commonest of the *Empidonaces*. At Point Pelee we have found it abundant all through September in both 1905 and 1906. It is probable that hitherto it has been overlooked here owing to the notorious difficulty of separating the small flycatchers in the field, and the lack of attention that is generally given them. The seeming absence of this flycatcher along the Ohio lake shore is probably due to the same cause, as it is most improbable that it should be so abundant at Pelee and as rare on the Ohio shore as the published records would lead one to suppose. From our experience with the Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, we regard it as a more or less common and likely regular migrant in southeastern Michigan.

***Hesperiphona vespertina*.** EVENING GROSBEAK.—This winter (1906-07), this rare straggler has again been with us for the first time since the general flight of 1889-90. We had received reports of its occurrence a few miles inland but it was not until December 30 that its appearance here was announced by a male being brought in to one of the taxidermist shops of the city. So far, January 28, this is all we have heard of in the immediate vicinity.

***Carpodacus purpureus*.** PURPLE FINCH.—Although this bird is reported as a not uncommon winter resident inland (Ann Arbor and Plymouth), we have no winter dates for its occurrence here. During the past fall we met with a great number of Purple Finches both here and at Point Pelee. The interesting feature observed was the silence of the adult red birds. The olive juveniles sang freely, but the bright ones uttered but monosyllabic call notes, and in no case made any attempt to sing. Also there were but two types of plumage observed, good bright red adults and plain olive juveniles; there were no intermediates.

Loxia leucoptera. WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILL.—Records of the White-winged Crossbill in southeastern Michigan are few and far between. Jas. B. Purdy records (Cook, Bds. of Mich., 1893, p. 108) that he secured a pair at Plymouth but gives no further data. During the past fall the species seems to have been generally distributed over southern Ontario, and on November 8 Mr. Swales found a small flock on Belle Isle, in the Detroit River opposite the city. These birds, two of which were males, were feeding on the ground on the edge of the woods and were very tame. November 13, we received a male from Point Pelee. The species seems to have been common at London since early November but we can get no satisfactory evidence of its appearance in the State west of us.

Coturniculus savannarum passerinus. SAVANNA SPARROW.—In 'The Auk,' XXII, p. 89, Mr. Taverner recorded the breeding of the Savanna Sparrow in the meadows of St. Clair Co., on the edge of the Flats. In 'The Auk,' XXIV, p. 97, appears what is evidently an oblique criticism of the same. It may be well, under these circumstances, to enlarge upon the previous record and give the facts of the case as they occurred. We do not for a minute admit that the occurrence of an individual or a pair in the breeding season warrants the conclusion that they are breeding, when found outside their known range, but the reader can judge of the following facts. In these rather damp meadows we found the Savanna Sparrows in considerable numbers throughout the spring and summer. Those taken had the skin of the abdomen thickened and all other indications of being breeders. The nests were not looked for, as we deemed their occurrence in numbers throughout the breeding season was evidence enough, especially as Taverner had already found them regular breeders at Port Huron, a few miles north, and W. E. Saunders had reported them as common on the opposite side of the Flats. We thought it nothing strange that they should breed here, and published the fact merely as a matter of record. Since then we have invariably found them in the same numbers in the same place during the full spring and summer months. We think the evidence is perfectly satisfactory, far more so, in fact, than that of the breeding of the Black-throated Blue Warbler (Auk, XVII, p. 390).

Melospiza cinerea melodia. SONG SPARROW.—The Song Sparrow occasionally winters with us in limited numbers and in certain favored places. We have three January specimens taken in 1906 and 1907, and though mid-winter birds, each was very fat indeed when killed. Whether it is only those in exceptionally good condition that can remain in winter or that those that stay with us find food abundant it is hard to say.

Cardinalis cardinalis. CARDINAL.—There is no doubt but that the Cardinal is on the increase with us in southeastern Michigan. In the immediate past it has always been observed in singles, and then generally in the winter. In the fall of 1904 we found a brood of young birds, accompanied by both parents, and with the neosoptile still attached to the feathers, on the main land near the St. Clair Flats. In May, 1905, two were observed at Flat Rock, on the Huron River, and again January 6, 1907, we met six scattered along the river between Flat Rock and Rockwood. Besides these we have met single individuals in most of the spring, fall, and winter months between Detroit and the mouth of the Huron River. The valley of this stream seems to be the main artery of their distribution in this section, and they are now reported as rather common as far up it as Ann Arbor. Mr. Taverner was well acquainted with this region and its birds from 1892-94, and at that time the Cardinal held its position in the Washtenaw Co. list solely on the ground of a single old record. The same seems to have been true of Wayne Co., though there seems to be good evidence that some half a century ago it was a still more common feature of our landscape than it is even now. Many old residents speak of the "red birds" that they used to see. We do not think that they have confused the Tanager with this species, as they mention its whistling powers, and, besides, the Cardinal has always been a common cage bird here and was well known. If this is so it seems to indicate that some large cycle is completed and the Cardinal is but regaining a lost habitat.

Dendroica striata. BLACK-POLL WARBLER.—Though one of our most abundant fall migrants, this warbler has yet to be detected in the spring in Wayne Co. To the west, north and east of us, however, it appears to be a rather irregular but not uncommon spring migrant. It is often observed at Ann Arbor, Mr. Taverner

met it during the springs of 1901 and 1902 at Port Huron, and Mr. Saunders regards it as not uncommon at London. We met the species in limited numbers in May, 1905 and 1906, at Point Pelee. It seems then that Detroit is carefully avoided by this bird in the spring and is an indication of the peculiar situation this section occupies migrationally.

Thryothorus ludovicianus. CAROLINA WREN.—August 11, 1906, we added this species to the Wayne Co. list when Mr. Taverner took a juvenile male near Palmer Park, on the outskirts of Detroit. We were first attracted by its clear, bubbling, liquid notes proceeding from a tangle of blackberry canes. Though a young bird it is not sufficient to found even a hypothetical breeding record, as it could fly perfectly and might have come from almost any distance. It is rather interesting to note that most of the extralimital cases of this bird's occurrence in the adjoining sections have been in the fall, and seem to indicate that this species has a tendency to wander north after the breeding season, as do the herons and some other birds. It may be explained by the fact that all birds are more numerous in the postnuptial than in the prenuptial season, due to the great numbers of newly raised young. There may therefore be greater chances of rare birds being seen then. For various reasons, however, we incline to the former than to the latter explanation. For one thing, the same movement seems to occur in the Cardinals and hitherto more adults have been observed here in the fall than immatures.

Sitta canadensis. RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH. — This little nuthatch is something of a puzzler. It is a migrant here, yet we understand that it winters in the Upper Peninsula. With us it is extremely erratic in its appearance, being common some years and then absent for several years in succession. This fall (1906), for the first time in some years, it was common. The first specimen was seen in the city August 30. September 1 to 3 they were common at Point Pelee, and still more so from the 15th to the 22d, and October 15 vast numbers were seen there. They were everywhere, in the hard woods, hanging head downwards from the tips of the long branches, in the orchards, creeping over the trunks, and in the red cedar thickets; but by far the largest numbers were towards the end of the Point on the edge of a waste clearing where

every dead and dry mullen stalk had several of their little blue forms upon it. There seemed to be hundreds in sight at one time. They did not appear in anything like such numbers about Detroit, and we did not see more than a couple or so at a time and generally three or four made a day's record. The last one was seen October 21 at Rockwood, though Mr. Taverner saw a pair taken at Ypsilanti Jan. 11, 1907. The occurrence of these birds seems to have been pretty general this fall and we have reports of them through lower Ontario and adjacent portions of this State. A comparison of the old records of Mr. Swales with those of Mr. Saunders of London shows a strong similarity of abundance that no other species that we have compared in this way has revealed. It indicates that the movements of this species are not so eccentrically erratic as some others, or, rather, the same causes that move the winter visitors of southern Ontario also brings ours down. There is, then, a connection between the Red-breasted Nuthatches of Ontario and Michigan that is not evident in other species. Indeed, from the study of the winter migrants of the two sections, as a whole, we are confident that their winter migrations are entirely independent of each other. There is a strong similarity just along the boundary between the two countries but it does not extend to any distance inland.